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PROPERTY TYCOON SRETTHA THAVISIN IS THAILAND'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

The 60-year-old's victory paves the way for a new coalition government led by the populist Pheu Thai Party, ending months of uncertainty

THAKSIN RETURNS FROM EXILE, SENT TO JAIL

Meanwhile, former Thai PM and the Pheu Thai Party's figurehead Thaksin Shinawatra returned after years in exile and was taken to jail to serve eight years on old graft charges. However, he may be released sooner now that his party is back in power. Srettha was elected in a joint sitting of the House and Senate on Tuesday | P12

SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY NOW SITS IN OPPN

- Almost all the votes against Srettha came from the Move Forward Party, which won most votes in the May 14 general election but could not get its leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, approved. The party is now sitting in opposition
- The Pheu Thai Party was subsequently asked to attempt to form a government, and it has cobbled together an 11-party coalition with 314 MPs

6 bn baht

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE MAY 14 GENERAL ELECTION IN THAILAND

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

B'luru student suffers burns after live wire falls on her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 21-year-old Christ University girl student, pursuing her undergraduate degree in a triple major programme, suffered 35% burns after a live electric wire fell on her on Tuesday around 1.45 pm. The incident occurred at Venkateshwara Layout which is around 250 metres from Christ University.

The student, Priya Garg, is from New Delhi. She is a first-year student of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Sociology and English. She is staying at a paying guest accommodation at Venkateshwara Layout and she was reportedly walking back to the PG with her friends during the lunch break when the electric wire fell on her. The electric pole also fell on a scooter parked on the roadside.

The incident occurred when a water tanker that was passing by pulled an optical fibre cable dangling from the electric pole. The tanker driver, unaware that the wire had got entangled, continued driving, pulling the pole down.

A snapped electric wire came in contact with Garg, injuring her. Garg was rushed to a private hospital nearby and was later shifted to St John's Hospital, Koramangala around 4.30 pm for further treatment.

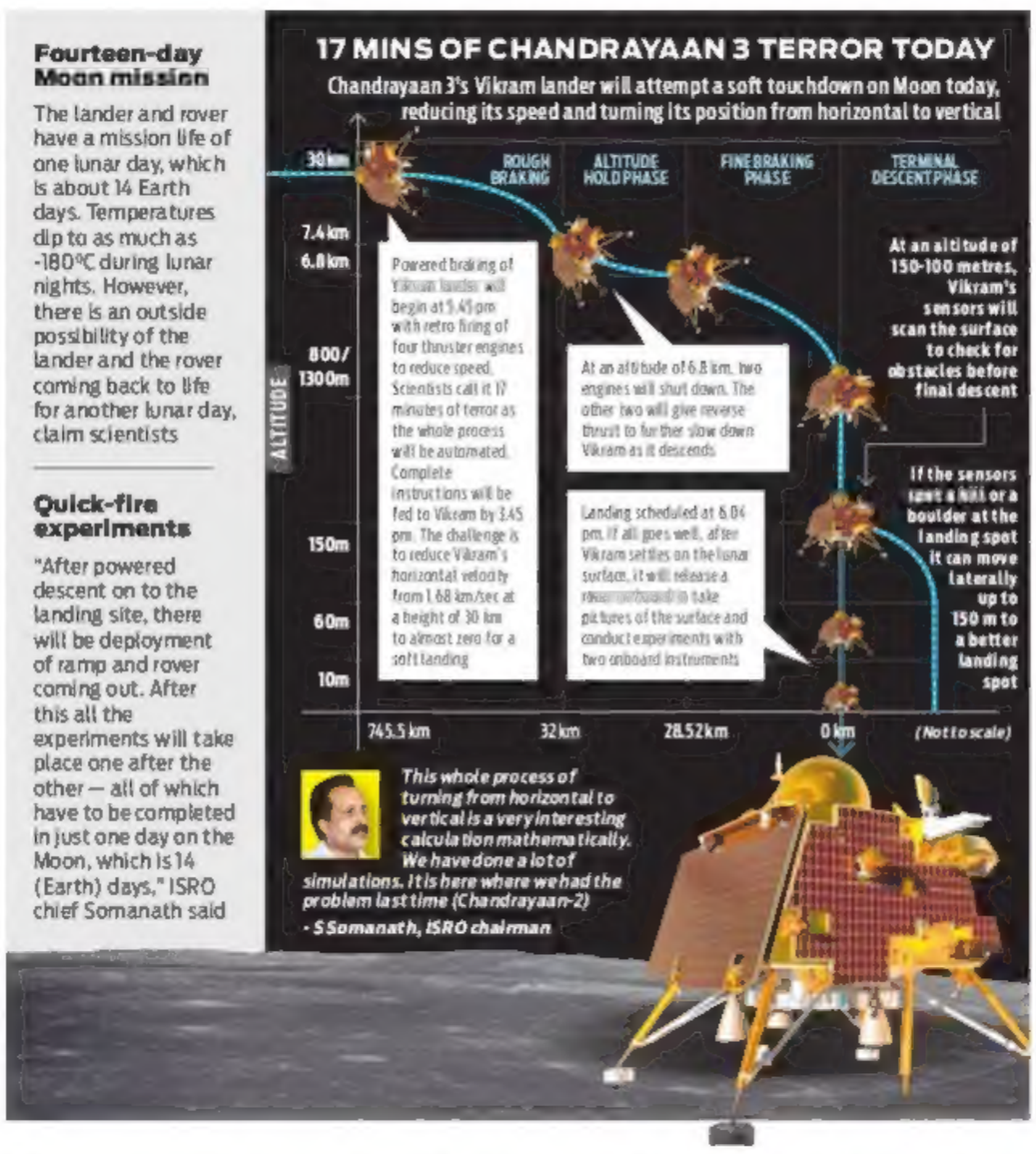
The initial assessment at the emergency ward showed that she had suffered 35% burns, more superficial than deep burns, said Dr Arvind Kasthuri, Chief of Medical Services at St John's. He said the student has no other comorbidities and her blood pressure and pulse rate were normal. She is kept under observation in the ICU and will be closely monitored for the next 48 hours. P3

Fourteen-day Moon mission

The lander and rover have a mission life of one lunar day, which is about 14 Earth days. Temperatures dip to as much as -180°C during lunar nights. However, there is an outside possibility of the lander and the rover coming back to life for another lunar day, claim scientists

Quick-fire experiments

"After powered descent on to the landing site, there will be deployment of ramp and rover coming out. After this all the experiments will take place one after the other — all of which have to be completed in just one day on the Moon, which is 14 (Earth) days," ISRO chief Somanath said


17 MINS OF CHANDRAYAAN 3 TERROR TODAY
Chandrayaan 3's Vikram lander will attempt a soft touchdown on Moon today, reducing its speed and turning its position from horizontal to vertical
ROUGH BRAKING
ALTITUDE HOLD PHASE
FINE BRAKING PHASE
TERMINAL DESCENT PHASE
ALTITUDE
30 km
7.4 km
6.8 km
800/1300m
150m
60m
10m
Powered braking of Vikram lander will begin at 5.43 pm with retro firing of four thruster engines to reduce speed. Scientists call it 17 minutes of terror as the whole process will be automated. Complete instructions will be fed to Vikram by 3.45 pm. The challenge is to reduce Vikram's horizontal velocity from 1.68 km/sec at a height of 30 km to almost zero for a soft landing
At an altitude of 6.8 km, two engines will shut down. The other two will give reverse thrust to further slow down Vikram as it descends
Landing scheduled at 6.04 pm. If all goes well, after Vikram settles on the lunar surface, it will release a rover embedded to take pictures of the surface and conduct experiments with two onboard instruments
At an altitude of 150-100 metres, Vikram's sensors will scan the surface to check for obstacles before final descent
If the sensors spot a hill or a boulder at the landing spot it can move laterally up to 150 m to a better landing spot
745.5 km
32 km
28.52 km
0 km
(Not to scale)
This whole process of turning from horizontal to vertical is a very interesting calculation mathematically. We have done a lot of simulations. It is here where we had the problem last time (Chandrayaan-2)
- S Somanath, ISRO chairman

New oversight body coming for ED and CBI

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

THE Centre is considering creating a new post of Chief Investigation Officer of India (CIO) on the lines of Chief of Defence Staff and the National Security Advisor. As per discussions at the highest level, the chiefs of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will report to the CIO, just like the three services report to the CDS and the two intelligence agencies to the NSA.

Sources said the government feels that there is a lot of overlap in the areas of investigation of the ED and the CBI. The ED focuses mainly on financial frauds, including cases related to money laundering and FEMA violations, but the CBI also looks into cases of corruption and other economic offences. A CIO heading the two agencies would bring better synergy between them, sources said.

According to sources, the new post will be in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. They said the outgoing ED chief, Sanjay Mishra, could be appointed as the first CIO.

Mishra was recently allowed by the Supreme Court to continue as ED chief till September 15. The SC had termed as illegal the two extensions of one year each given to him by the Union government after his retirement. It, however, allowed him to continue till September 15 in "larger public and national interest" as the central government requested his continuance due to the ongoing review of Financial Action Task Force in which some neighbouring countries wanted India to be put in the "grey list". The apex court gave its ruling while hearing a petition against the Centre's move to give a third one-year extension to the ED chief.

FRESH INNINGS

Outgoing ED chief Sanjay Mishra, who will demit office on September 15 after the SC cut short his tenure, is tipped to be the first CIO

Sources said the post of CIO may be created before Mishra demits office on September 15. They said that the ED will continue to function under the Department of Revenue of the Union Ministry of Finance and the CBI under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The operational supervision of the two agencies would, however, be transferred to the CIO, who, in turn, is likely to report to the Prime Minister's Office.

SC sets aside HC order on Lakshadweep MP Faizal

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

LAKSHADWEEP MP Mohammed Faizal on Tuesday suffered a huge setback as the Supreme Court set aside an order of the Kerala High Court suspending his conviction in an attempt-to-murder case and asked it to decide on his case afresh within six weeks.

The court said the Kerala HC had failed to consider the true position of law with respect to the manner in which application for stay of conviction must be considered.

A trial court had sentenced him to 10 years in jail, which led to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha. But the HC's stay on his conviction had restored his MP status. The SC said his continuing as MP will not be affected till the HC takes a fresh call.

In its previous order, the HC had cited the prospect of incurring enormous expenses to conduct fresh elections as a ground to stay his conviction. But a bench of justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan faulted the HC's decision making process. "HC has considered one aspect of the matter, namely he being MP, as any order would result in fresh elections and entail enormous expenses. The said aspect need not have been the only one to be considered by the HC," the bench said.

Prayers from Earth for safe Moon landing

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

AS the 12-hour countdown for Chandrayaan 3 begins, several cultural committees and individuals in Karnataka and other states organised pujas and prayers for the safe landing of the lander module, Vikram, on the south pole of the lunar surface. The touchdown is expected at 6.04 pm, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

A ceremony was held at the Shree Dodda Ganapathi temple in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, by members of the Chamarajpet Janapara Vedike. The idol was offered phala (various kinds of fruits), panchamrita, abhisheka (holy bath) and kadubu — considered the deity's favourite sweet. The Indian flag along with Bharat Mata pictures and Chandrayaan-3 Mission posters had been placed all around the idol. P5

A priest offers puja at a temple in Bengaluru on Tuesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Complaint against actor Prakash Raj for comment

Bagalkot: Sriram Sene members on Tuesday filed a complaint against actor Prakash Raj of making fun of India's prestigious Chandrayaan 3 in his social media X account. The actor had posted a caricature showing Chandrayaan sending a photo of a man pouring tea. P5

BIDEN VISIT

US President Joe Biden will travel to India from September 7 to 10 to attend the G-20 Leaders' Summit, the White House announced on Tuesday

PKs protest for salaries, covered in human faeces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO pourakarmikas poured human faeces on themselves as a mark of protest as they were allegedly not paid salaries for 15 months. The incident took place in front of Kallahalli Gram Panchayat office in Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's hometown Kanakapura, in Ramanagara district, on Tuesday morning.

Rangaiah and Suresh, who work as pourakarmikas on contract basis, resorted to pouring human faeces on themselves and sat on dharna in front of the GP office. They alleged that their salaries were not cleared for 15 months, and officials were not responding to their repeated requests.

Soon after the incident, Srinivas, panchayat development officer of Kallahalli GP, issued cheques. The incident shocked residents of Kallahalli and they criticised the administration for holding up salaries of pourakarmikas, and allowing the matter to escalate.

Kumaraswamy, state adviser to Jaya Karnataka Janapara Vedike and a resident of Kanakapura, said a protest will be held on Wednesday, demanding the suspension of officials responsible for the incident. "We will appeal to the Zilla Panchayat CEO to suspend the officers and ensure such incidents don't repeat," he added.

Wildlife board nod for elevated corridor through Bannerghatta

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE State Board for Wildlife (SBW) on Tuesday approved a proposal from the Public Works Department (PWD) to construct a 6.63 km elevated corridor passing through eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) and Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) in Anekal range. The SBW meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The elevated corridor is part of the 280-km Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), being constructed around Bengaluru to reduce traffic and restrict the movement of heavy vehicles in the state capital.

A proposal was made in 2018-19 to cut through BNP, but was put on hold with rising opposition from conservationists, activists and serving and retired forest officials. After going back to the drawing board, PWD chalked out five proposals and sent them to the forest department for approval in 2023. Of all of them, the one with the elevated corridor was chosen for approval. Pillars will be erected on the existing road so that no trees are cut and there is minimal damage to BNP, the proposal states.

It was tabled at the 17th wildlife board meeting on Tuesday and was cleared within a few minutes. At the 10-minute meeting, while many other proposals including discussion on Hesaraghatta grassland was deferred, the CM cleared the proposal for developing STRR Phase-2 (NH948A) from Ramanagara to Peddamadhagondapalli, a 57.8 km stretch in Ramanagara and Bengaluru Urban, passing through survey numbers 91 and 100 inside BNP.

"PWD had chalked out five proposals, including the construction of the 6.63 kms elevated corridor from Marsarahalli village to Periyamagondahalli and sent them to the forest department and Board members. The construction of the elevated corridor will also include putting up deck gates, CCTV, barricades and boards," a board member said.

The proposal was cleared, citing elevated corridors in Pench tiger reserve, the member added. CONTINUED ON: P5

R Praggnanandhaa holds Magnus Carlsen in first game in the World Cup final

Pragg checks Carlsen in first game of final

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

BOTH R Praggnanandhaa and Magnus Carlsen tried to find openings but positions did not permit them to get a positive outcome. So it was no surprise that both decided to shake hands and call it a draw after just 35 moves in the first match of the World Cup final in Baku on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old Indian, playing with white pieces, had the natural advantage but after surviving a gruelling tie-break in the semifinal against Fabiano Caruana, will be happy with the rest before coming back fresh on Wednesday. "It will be a fight," he told FIDE when asked to speak on what lies ahead. "He will definitely push very hard. I will try to rest and come fresh, think that's the best I can do."

Both players had equal pieces on the board (three pawns, horse and a rook) and it was a surprise to see Carlsen, who had a substantial advantage on time (34 minutes to Praggnanandhaa's 10), accepting to not even put his better endgame skills to use. However, he kind of explained his decision. "Normally, I would just probably have a bit of an advantage having a rest day while he had to a play a tough tiebreak," he told FIDE. "But I have been in a pretty rough shape the last couple of days. I got some food poisoning after that game against (Nijat) Abasov. I haven't been able to to eat for the last two days. This also meant that I was really calm because I had no energy to be nervous."

The World No 1, who bids to win a first World Cup, has the advantage with white on Wednesday but Pragg, who has already qualified for next year's Candidates, has shown that he can dig deep, if needed. P17

LINGO JOURNEY

First-ever published research study in Tulu to be out soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

A retired professor of English has become the first person to publish a research study in Tulu. Dr VK Yadav from Sasihitlu in Mangaluru has completed his PhD on 'Mogaveerena Samskruithika Badk Bokka Arthika Chinthane' (The Cultural and Economic thoughts of Mogaveera Community) from Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. His guide is the university's head of Department of Tulu Studies Dr GS Shivakumar.

Dr VK Yadav

The thesis, brought out in a book form, will be unveiled by Dr M Mohan Alva, founder of Alva's Education Foundation on August 27.

Two years ago, Saigeetha had done her PhD in Tulu, but it was not published. Stating that his is the first published PhD thesis in Tulu, Yadav said it will help those who do research in Tulu language and literature. At present, only Dravidian University allows PhD in Tulu along with other Dravidian languages.

Author Chandrahas Kanantheru said some distinct consonants and pronunciation of Tulu language found only among Mogaveera community has also been documented in the research study.

Benett G Ammanna, a former member of the Tulu Academy, termed the published Tulu thesis as a significant development in the history of Tulu language and literature, especially in the light of the language not getting constitutional recognition citing lack of studies and literature in the language.

Prior to book release, a Tulu Poets Meet will be held at the venue in which 12 promising poets will participate.